

LOOK INSIDE THIS GUIDE

March 1 - May 27, 2011



Look Inside

- ② THINGS TO DO
- ③ PLAN YOUR VISIT
- ④ RANGER-LED PROGRAMS
- ⑧ PARK MAP
- ⑩ HIKING TRAILS

Many More Answers
to Your Questions...

...Look Inside

Spring

What to do and Where to go in Grand Canyon National Park

Grand Canyon Guide & Maps

Things to Do

Use this Guide to get the most out of your visit

Welcome to Grand Canyon National Park

The Grand Canyon we visit today is a gift from past generations. Take time to enjoy this gift. Sit and watch the changing play of light and shadows. Wander along a trail and feel the sunshine and wind on your face.

The information in this publication will answer many of your questions about the South Rim. Stop by a visitor center and talk with a ranger. Participate in a ranger-led activity. Save gas and frustration; park your vehicle and ride the free shuttles. Watch a sunrise or sunset. Hike into the canyon. May you form memories that last a lifetime.

Getting Around

The 4.5 million people who visit Grand Canyon each year are able to enjoy the canyon by using their own vehicle, by foot, by bicycle, and/or by making use of the free shuttle system.



By Car

It is possible to drive your vehicle anywhere on paved park roadways except for the road to Hermits Rest and the road to South Kaibab Trail and Yaki Point. These sections of road are indicated on the center page map by dotted lines. If you would like to explore the national park by your personal vehicle, consider Desert View Drive (AZ-64 East). From this 25 mile (40 km) road you will be able to access several scenic vistas and Tusayan Ruins and Museum between Grand Canyon Village and Desert View Watchtower. Consult the back page of this guide for more information. Be sure to share the road with bicycles.



By Foot

Get out and stretch your legs. Whether it is going for a short walk along the Rim Trail, or undertaking a more difficult venture below the rim, using your own two feet is a great way to see the canyon. Information on hiking trails, the Rim trail, and hiking safety information is available on pages 10 - 12 of this guide.



Bicycle

Explore the park on a bike. For more information about biking through the park, consult page 6 of this guide.



Shuttle Bus

For more information about riding the free shuttle buses, see information located on this page.

Coming in April

Grand Canyon: A Journey of Wonder

An Interpretive film
shown at
Grand Canyon
Visitor Center

How do the FREE Shuttle Buses Work?



The shuttle buses take you to places in the park you cannot drive. Park your vehicle in one of the parking areas, proceed to the nearest bus stop, and board the next bus. Information about bus routes is available on the map in this guide and at bus stops. Buses display the route name on the front marquee.

Hermit Route (Red)

Buses provide transportation between Village Route Transfer and Hermits Rest (7 miles; 11 km) with stops at nine canyon overlooks. Buses stop only at Hermits Rest, Pima, Mohave, and Powell Points on return.

75 minutes Round-trip
(without getting off the bus)

Buses run every:

30 minutes: 4:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.

15 minutes: 7:00 a.m. - sunset

30 minutes: sunset - 1 hour after sunset

Village Route (Blue)

Buses provide transportation between Grand Canyon Visitor Center, hotels, restaurants, campgrounds, parking lots, and other facilities in the Village area. This is not a scenic route, but rim views are available a short walk from many stops.

50 minutes Round-trip
(without getting off the bus)

Buses run every:

30 minutes: 4:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.

15 minutes: 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

30 minutes: 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Note: The last buses leave from Grand Canyon Visitor Center (headed Westbound) and Maswik Lodge (headed Eastbound) at 10:00 p.m.



Kaibab/Rim Route (Orange)

Buses provide transportation between Grand Canyon Visitor Center, South Kaibab Trailhead, Yaki Point, Pipe Creek Vista, Mather Point, and Yavapai Geology Museum. This is the shortest scenic route and the only access to Yaki Point.

50 minutes Round-trip
(without getting off the bus)

Buses run every:

30 minutes: 4:30 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.

15 minutes: 6:30 a.m. - 1 hour after sunset

Hikers' Express

An early morning bus with service to South Kaibab Trailhead. Bus departs from Bright Angel Lodge bus stop on the hour; second stop at Backcountry Information Center; third stop at Grand Canyon Visitor Center; last stop at South Kaibab Trailhead.

March: 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 a.m.

April: 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 a.m.

May: 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 a.m.

Wheelchairs

Shuttle buses are equipped with ramps and space to carry passengers in wheelchairs. Please note, wheelchairs larger than 30" wide by 48" long cannot be accommodated on shuttle buses. Most motorized scooters will not fit on buses.

An accessibility permit, allowing access to some areas closed to public traffic, is available at entrance gates, visitor centers, and hotel lobbies. Day-use wheelchairs at no charge are available at Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Bicycles

Each shuttle bus is equipped with a 3-capacity bicycle rack on the front. Bicyclists are required to load and unload their own bikes, and are responsible for bike security.

Plan Your Visit

What to do, and where to go

Half-Day Activities

Walk the Rim Trail; distances are flexible from minutes to hours. See pages 8-10.

Visit Yavapai Geology Museum and explore geologic history on the Trail of Time.

Join a Ranger-Led program; the schedule is on pages 4-5 of this guide.

See the Colorado River from Mather or Yavapai Points.

Visit historic shops and galleries in the heart of Grand Canyon Village.

Take a walking tour of Grand Canyon's historic village; brochures available at visitor centers.

All-Day Activities

Take a hike into the Canyon, by way of Bright Angel Trail, South Kaibab Trail, or the more rugged Hermit Trail. Consult pages 10 - 12 of this guide for more information.

Complete an activity book and attend a ranger-led program to earn a Junior Ranger badge.

Combine rim walks and shuttle rides along Hermit Road.

Visit Tusayan Museum and walk the Tusayan Ruin trail.

Visit the Mary Colter landmark buildings, such as Hopi House, Bright Angel, and more. Take a walking tour of the Village Historic District.

Two or More Days

Venture out on the Rim Trail and viewpoints along Hermit Road by a combination of foot, bicycle, and bus. See pages 8-10.

Experience Desert View Drive by car, stopping at Tusayan Ruin and Museum and Desert View Watchtower. See page 16.

Hike deeper into the canyon. Permit required for overnight stays in the backcountry. Visit the Backcountry Information Center and chat with a ranger to discuss your options and to learn how to hike safely. See page 12 for more information.

Become a Junior Ranger!

Grand Canyon National Park offers a Junior Ranger program for children ages 4 and older.

To take part in the FREE program, pick up a Junior Ranger booklet at any park visitor center. Complete four activities listed for the appropriate age level and attend a ranger-led program (listed on pages 4-5 of this guide).



Bring your completed booklet back to any visitor center to receive an official Junior Ranger certificate and badge.

Additional Junior Ranger programs are available at Desert View, Phantom Ranch, the North Rim, and over 250 National Parks, Seashores, and Monuments nationwide.

Funded by Grand Canyon Association.



Information

Village Area

(east to west)

Grand Canyon Visitor Center

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Plan your visit and learn about Grand Canyon ecology. Bookstore, bicycle rental, and viewpoints nearby.

Yavapai Geology Museum

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

How did the canyon form? Find answers to your geology questions with 3D maps and exhibits about the geologic story you see through the windows.

Verkamp's Visitor Center

March: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

April - May: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Located in one of the canyon's oldest buildings, discover the history of community life in Grand Canyon Village.

Kolb Studio

March: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

April - May: 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

This restored 1905 building was the Kolb brothers' home and photography studio. It houses free art exhibits.

Backcountry Information Center

8:00 a.m. - noon, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Chat with the rangers, get trail information, learn how to Hike Smart, and request a permit.

Desert View Area

Tusayan Museum

Daily 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Ancestral Puebloan ruins and a museum featuring artifacts from ancient and contemporary tribes are located 3 miles (5 km) west of Desert View.

Desert View Visitor Center

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

How does the canyon inspire you? Explore how this magnificent landscape has inspired artists, writers, musicians, and conservationists.

Best Places for Sunrise or Sunset Views

There is no one best place for watching sunrise or sunset, just good places and better places. Look for a viewpoint that juts into the canyon with views both east and west.

- While Hopi Point is unquestionably a desirable viewpoint for sunset, it attracts crowds of people and buses.
- Yaki and Yavapai Points are accessible by shuttle, offer spectacular views of the canyon and are less congested.
- Lipan, Navajo, and Desert View Points, offer incredible views of the canyon with the San Francisco Peaks to the south, the distant Painted Desert, and extensive stretches of the river below.










Date	Sunrise	Sunset
March 1	6:59 a.m.	6:23 p.m.
March 7	6:51 a.m.	6:29 p.m.
March 14	6:41 a.m.	6:35 p.m.
March 21	6:31 a.m.	6:41 p.m.
March 28	6:21 a.m.	6:47 p.m.
April 4	6:11 a.m.	6:53 p.m.
April 11	6:01 a.m.	6:59 p.m.
April 18	5:52 a.m.	7:05 p.m.
April 25	5:43 a.m.	7:11 p.m.
May 2	5:35 a.m.	7:17 p.m.
May 9	5:28 a.m.	7:22 p.m.
May 16	5:22 a.m.	7:28 p.m.
May 23	5:17 a.m.	7:34 p.m.

Ranger-Led Programs




Discover Grand Canyon at a free program with the rangers

Village Area	LOCATION	TIME	DURATION	FREQUENCY
Cedar Ridge Hike: A Journey into the Canyon ⚡				
What treasures lie below the rim? Join a ranger to discover the beauty of the inner canyon on this strenuous hike. Hike for 1-2 hours with a ranger, descending 1140 feet (347 m) below the rim on the unpaved South Kaibab Trail to Cedar Ridge. This strenuous 3-mile (5 km) round-trip hike is not recommended for people with heart or respiratory problems or difficulty walking. Sturdy footwear and 1-2 quarts (1-2 liters) of water per person are required. Hat, sunscreen, and snacks strongly recommended. Plan on 3-4 hours spent round trip. Trailhead is closed to private vehicles. Ride the Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle from Grand Canyon Visitor Center.	South Kaibab Trailhead accessible by shuttle bus only	8:00 a.m.	3 - 4 hours	Daily starting April 15 No Program May 2-4
History Talk: People and the Canyon ♿				
For thousands of years, humans have been part of the Grand Canyon. Join a ranger to discover different stories of humankind's enduring relationship with the canyon. Topics vary daily. Programs may include a walk around the village historic district. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop. Parking nearby is limited.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	9:00 a.m.	45 minutes	Daily No Program May 2-4
Rim Walk: Wonders of the Canyon Revealed ♿ ⚡				
Come explore some of the many wonders that Grand Canyon has to offer. From geology to history to ecology the stories and views are endless. Join a ranger on this leisurely walk along the rim. Topics vary daily. Arrive by riding the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus to the Yavapai Geology Museum stop or park in the nearby parking area.	Yavapai Geology Museum Outside by the bicycle rack.	9:30 a.m.	1 hour	Daily March 1- April 14
Geology Talk: Stories in Stone ♿				
Grand Canyon is one of the greatest geologic features on earth. Why is the Grand Canyon so deep, wide, and grand? Join a park ranger to discover its amazing geologic story. Arrive by riding the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus to the Yavapai Geology Museum stop or park in the nearby parking area.	Yavapai Geology Museum	10:00 a.m.	45 minutes	Daily No Program May 2-4
Mather Point Talk: Treasures of the Canyon ♿ ⚡				
Join a ranger for this short program to discover the treasures of Grand Canyon. Topics vary daily. Great for Junior Rangers! Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Grand Canyon Visitor Center stop. Parking is available in lots 1 through 4.	Mather Point Amphitheater	11:00 a.m.	20 - 30 minutes	Daily No Program May 2-4
Porch Talk ♿				
Relax on the porch with a ranger for this short program to discover the treasures of the canyon. Topics vary daily. Perfect for Junior Rangers and train passengers! Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop. Parking in the nearby lot is limited.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	1:30 p.m.	15 - 20 minutes	Daily
Nature Walk: Walk on the Wild Side ♿ ⚡				
Did you know Grand Canyon is one of the most biologically diverse parks in North America? Join a ranger for a leisurely walk to discover some of what makes the park so unique. Topics vary daily and focus primarily on plants and/or animals. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Train Depot stop. Parking in the nearby lot may be limited.	Verkamp's Visitor Center	2:00 p.m.	1 hour	Daily March 1- April 14

Village Area Continued

	LOCATION	TIME	DURATION	FREQUENCY
Fossil Walk  				
Walk through an ancient ocean of marine creatures. Discover the amazing world of fossils and what they tell us about the canyon’s history on this moderate hike with a ranger. This 1/2-mile one-way (0.8 km) walk explores an exposed fossil bed along the rim. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Bright Angel Lodge stop. Parking is limited.	Bright Angel Lodge Patio (on the rim)	2:00 p.m.	1 - 1 ½ hours	Daily starting April 15 No Program May 2-4
Condor Talk  				
Learn about the majestic and endangered California Condor and its reintroduction in northern Arizona in a talk along the canyon’s rim. Ride the free Village Route shuttle bus to the Bright Angel Lodge stop. Parking is limited.	Meets in front of Lookout Studio	3:00 pm	45 - 60 minutes	Daily No Program May 2-4
Geo-Glimpse  				
Wondering how the Grand Canyon came to be? Enjoy this short introductory talk and learn about the geology of the Grand Canyon while you explore Yavapai Geology Museum. Great for Junior Rangers! Arrive by riding the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus to the Yavapai Geology Museum stop or park in the nearby parking area.	Yavapai Geology Museum	3:30 pm	15 - 20 minutes	Daily
Evening Program   				
Dig deeper into Grand Canyon’s amazing resource and stories. Join a ranger to learn more about the canyon’s fascinating natural and cultural history. A perfect way to end your day of exploring. For daily topics check schedules posted at park visitor centers. Arrive by walking, driving or riding the free Village Route shuttle bus to Parking Lot A.	Shrine of the Ages	7:30 pm, Mar1-Mar31 8:00 pm Apr 1-May 27	1 hour	Daily
Special Programs				
When staffing allows, rangers may offer a variety of special programs: Cemetery Tours, Bike Programs, Kolb Tours, Colorado River Talks, Star and Moon Programs (dependent upon the phase of the moon). Check at visitor centers for times and locations.	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies




Desert View and Tusayan Museum

Glimpses of the Past   				
Have you ever wondered what life was like at Grand Canyon 800 years ago? How did people find food, water and shelter? Join a ranger to explore the remains of an ancestral Puebloan village. Envision a thriving community in this harsh and demanding environment. Program includes a journey on a 0.1 mile (0.2 km) on a flat, paved trail.	Tusayan Museum , 3 miles (5 km) west of Desert View	11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.	30–45 minutes	Daily

Inner Canyon

Programs				
Mule Riders and hikers headed to Indian Gardens and/or Phantom Ranch can attend Ranger-led programs at both locations. More information and schedules are posted on bulletin boards in the canyon.	Indian Gardens and Phantom Ranch	Check schedules	Check schedules	Check schedules

Children must be accompanied by an adult at all programs.

-  All outdoor programs may be cancelled in inclement weather or when lightning danger is present.
-  These programs are wheelchair accessible with assistance. Wheelchairs are available for loan during the day at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.
-  These programs are designed specifically for children and their parents. Ideal for meeting the ranger program requirement for Grand Canyon’s Junior Ranger badge. Any ranger program, however, may serve the requirement on page 2 the Junior Ranger Activity Booklet.

Special Events

- Archeology Day:** March 19th
Learn about archeology and human history at Grand Canyon.
 - Earth Day:** April 22nd
Learn about Earth Day and how you can be part of Grand Canyon’s ecofriendly mission.
 - Celebrate Wildlife Day:** May 6 - 7th,
Learn about wildlife with activities, presentations, programs and live animals.
- For more information on special events check at any visitor center.

Park Projects

Preserving and protecting Grand Canyon

Refill your bottle, reduce your footprint!

In order to reduce litter in the park, plastics in the waste stream and greenhouse gas emissions, Grand Canyon National Park has a reusable water bottle program. Filling stations that provide pure, clean Grand Canyon spring water are now available throughout the park:

- Hermits Rest
- Bright Angel Trailhead
- Verkamp's Visitor Center
- Village General Store
- Grand Canyon Visitor Center
- South Kaibab Trailhead
- Desert View Visitor Center
- Desert View Marketplace



Almost 30% of Grand Canyon's waste stream is disposable plastic bottles!

What can you do to help? Fill 'er up! Bring or buy a reusable water bottle and fill it up free of charge. Bottles are available for purchase at all park retailers.

Why refill? When you refill a water bottle, you:

Enjoy pure, clean Grand Canyon spring water

Reduce litter within the park

Reduce plastics in the waste stream

Reduce waste management costs for the park (your tax dollars!)

Reduce greenhouse gases associated with the production, filling, packaging and transport of bottled water

Save money! Grand Canyon spring water is FREE!

Artist-in-Residence Program



Few places have provoked as much wonder and creativity as Grand Canyon. Grand Canyon National Park

hosts two Artist-in-Residence (AiR) programs – a seasonal program on the North Rim, and a year-round program on the South Rim. Artists of all genres, selected through a formal jury process, are awarded 3-week residencies. While at the canyon, artists present programs for visitors and have time to pursue their projects.

March: Painter Williamson Tapia; Sedona, AZ. Williamson will present on-the-rim painting demos during his time in-residence, and welcomes visitors to stop and visit him.

April: Composer/Musician Elizabeth Brown; Brooklyn, NY. Elizabeth will present an evening program concert featuring her unusual

instruments (shakuhachi flute, theremin, gamelan and others), an outdoor evening performance celebrating night sounds, and a short, family-friendly “acoustic walk”.

May: Site-specific, place-based installation artist Shawn Skabelund; Flagstaff, AZ. While in-residence, Shawn will be developing an installation piece about Grand Canyon, conducting research in park collections, library and archives. He will present an evening program slide show/artist talk about his work. Shawn will return in 2012 to install his site-specific piece and present artist talks.

All workshops and presentations are free, family-friendly and open to the public. Please check at any visitor center for information on dates, locations and times of AiR programs.

To learn more about the AiR program or if you are interested in applying for a residency, visit: www.nps.gov/grca/supportyourpark/air.htm

Escape the Crowds! Ride your bike.

Experience the many vistas of Grand Canyon by exploring the area on bike. Bikes are permitted on the Greenway Trail (indicated by a solid green line on the map in this guide), and paved roads. Bikes may not be ridden on the Rim Trail between Mather Point and Monument Creek Vista. Shuttle buses are equipped with 3-capacity bike racks. If you wish to bike out to Hermits Rest, you will need to bike along the road or ride a bus to Monument Creek Vista where you can access the trail.

Be sure to follow all safety precautions:

- Drink approximately 1 quart/liter of water per hour while biking and double your calorie intake.
- Weather can change quickly, so be aware of clouds forming and the extremes of temperature.
- Allow vehicles and buses to pass on shared roadways.
- Wear appropriate gear such as a bicycle helmet and reflective clothing. Apply sunscreen regularly and stop frequently to rest.
- Always ride on designated paved bike paths or roadways; do not ride through the forests as this causes destruction to the natural area. Remember plants here grow by the inch, but die by the foot (or bike tire).

For more information on biking in the park, speak with a park ranger.

You may rent bicycles at Grand Canyon Visitor Center from:

Bright Angel Bicycle Rentals

Hours and Days of Operation:

March 7th - April 30th
(weather permitting)

10:00am - 4:30pm
May 1st - September 30th
8:00am - 6:00pm

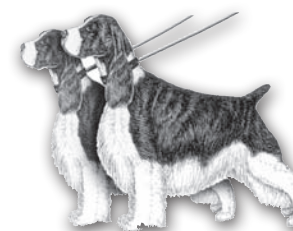
phone: (928) 814-8704
email: babrentals@gmail.com
web: bikegrandcanyon.com



Pets Must Be Leashed at All Times

Leashed pets are allowed on rim trails throughout the developed areas of the South Rim, but no below the rim. The only exception is service animals.

Persons wishing to take a service animal below the rim must check in first at the Backcountry Information Center.



Kennels are available:
(928) 638-0534.

Park Projects

Preserving and protecting Grand Canyon

Invasive Plants in Grand Canyon National Park

What is an invasive plant? A plant that does not naturally occur in an area, is unwanted and competes with native plants is considered invasive. In Grand Canyon, the Park Service removes the most aggressive invasive plants so that our natural habitats remain intact.

Why are resource managers concerned? Invasive plants undermine the integrity and function of ecosystems by out-competing native plants for sunlight, water, and nutrients and harming wildlife. During extended drought periods, native plants need all the help they can get to survive. Many invasive plants are not palatable to wildlife, nor provide good habitat. Some invasive plants produce chemicals that discourage the growth of native species. Some species such as cheatgrass, now common throughout the West, encourage frequent wildfires by growing as a fine, closely spaced grass that dries out by early summer, creating fuel for fires. The spread of invasive plants is one of the greatest threats to biodiversity and the preservation of intact, native ecosystems.

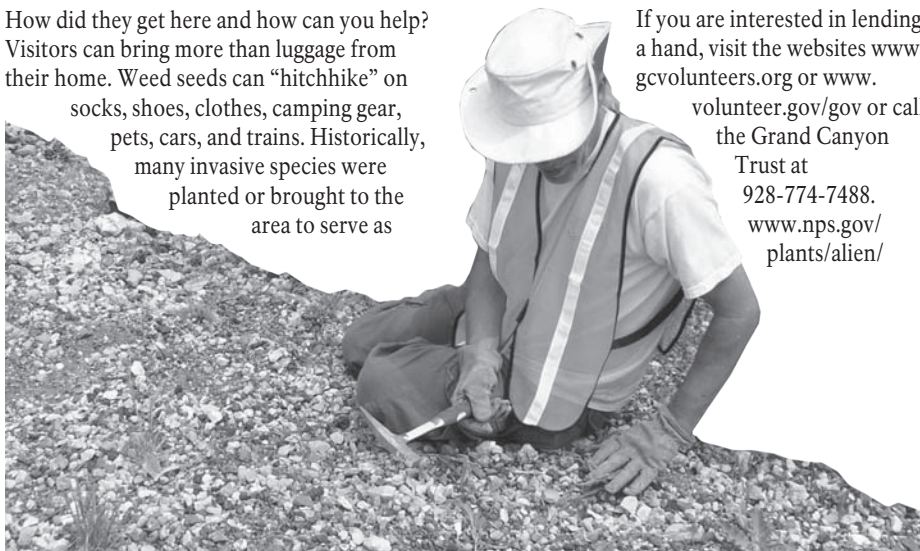
How did they get here and how can you help? Visitors can bring more than luggage from their home. Weed seeds can "hitchhike" on socks, shoes, clothes, camping gear, pets, cars, and trains. Historically, many invasive species were planted or brought to the area to serve as

windbreaks, ornamentals, or cattle forage. Since 1996, the number of invasive plant species documented in the park has increased fifty percent, from 116 to 187. You can help Grand Canyon by removing seeds from your camping gear, shoes, clothes, and from your pets, before you enter the park. Staying on established trails keeps any invasive seeds you missed out of pristine areas of the park.

What can you do at home? Check your belongings before you leave the park to ensure you do not bring unwanted plant seeds back home. At home, landscape with native plants and consider volunteering for invasive plant removal projects in your community.

How does Grand Canyon control invasive plants? Grand Canyon's Vegetation Program relies on wonderful volunteers to keep the park beautiful and the native ecosystems intact. A group of volunteers can pull thousands of invasive plants in one day, many times more than the Vegetation Program staff could do alone.

If you are interested in lending a hand, visit the websites www.gcvolunteers.org or www.volunteer.gov or call the Grand Canyon Trust at 928-774-7488. www.nps.gov/plants/alien/



Grand Canyon Association: Be a Part of Something Grand

Grand Canyon Association (GCA) is a nonprofit member organization that helps preserve and protect Grand Canyon National Park by cultivating support, education and understanding of the park.

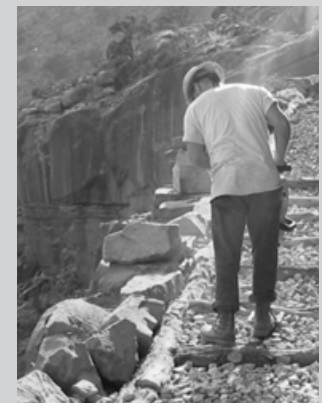
GCA cooperates with the National Park Service to fund a variety of projects and programs -- new exhibits, scientific research, trail restoration, wildlife monitoring, ecological restoration, support for the arts, and historic building preservation.

On the South Rim, Grand Canyon Association operates bookstores in the Desert View Visitor Center, Tusayan Museum, Yavapai Geology Museum, Verkamp's Visitor Center, Kolb Studio, and their main store, Books and More, across from the Grand Canyon Visitor Center. Purchases of educational and enjoyable gifts from these stores benefit Grand Canyon National Park.

Interested in experienced based learning opportunities? Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI) offers 100+ classes annually that vary from a few hours of personal interpretation to multi-day guided trips into the canyon.

Teachers can benefit from GCA's outreach program, including Travelin' Trunks and DVDs for loan.

Supporting the arts is another focus of the Grand Canyon Association. Several free, rotating exhibits at Kolb Studio are developed and hosted by GCA annually. The Grand Canyon Celebration of Art brings invited artists to the canyon for eight days of special events each fall. Proceeds from this event are dedicated to funding a new, permanent art venue on the South Rim.

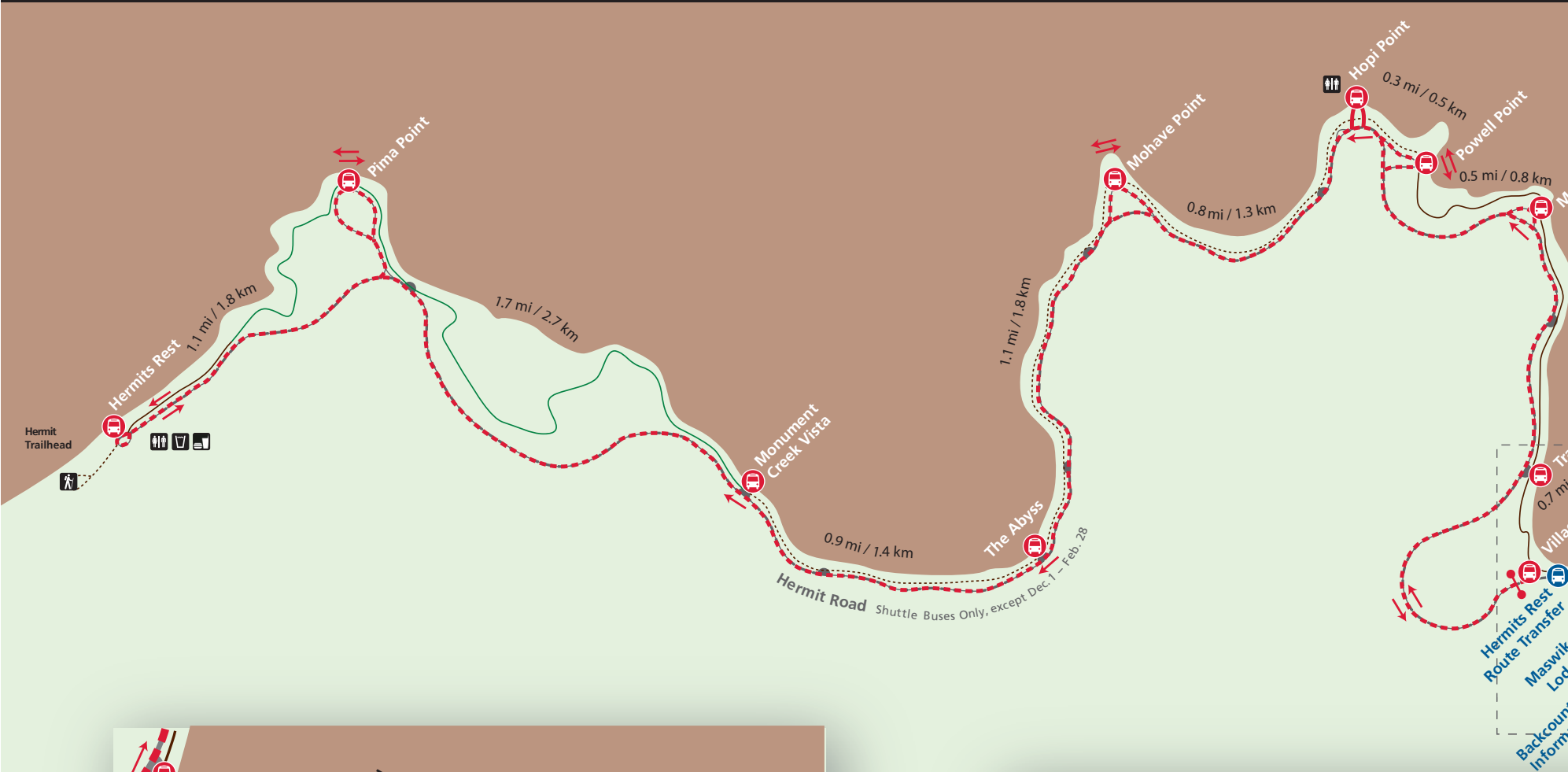


GCA priority projects for funding in 2011:

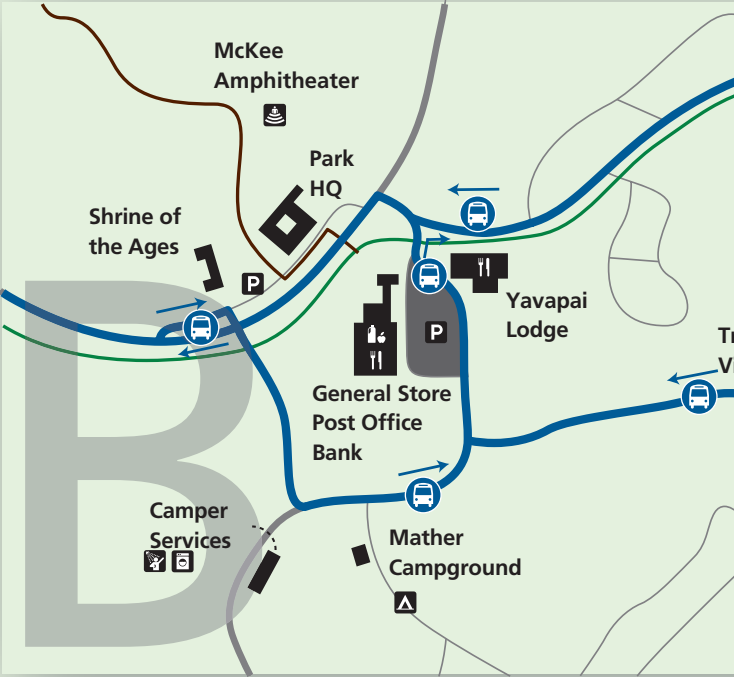
- Wilderness Trail Restoration
Maintain backcountry trail system
Protecting native vegetation and wildlife
- Interpreting Sustainable Practices
Creating displays to help explain sustainability and climate friendly practices within the park; such as powering Indian Garden and Phantom Ranch with renewable resources
- Sharing the Park with Kids Across America
Funding will help purchase distance learning hardware and software to provide free ranger-led programming for school districts across the country.

To become a member or to make a donation, visit a GCA bookstore, call toll-free 800-858-2808 or access www.grandcanyon.org.



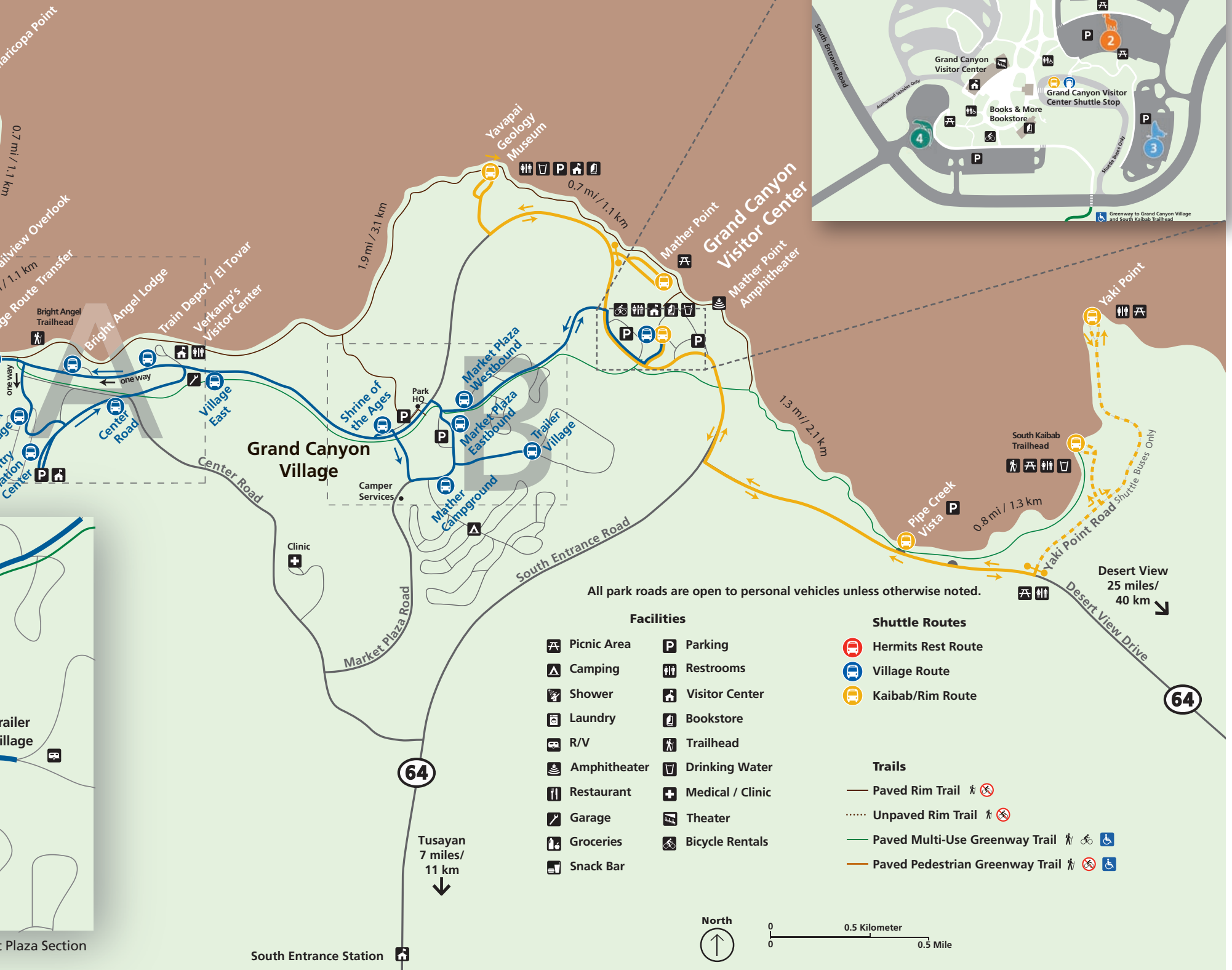


Enlarged Village Section



Enlarged Market Section

Enlarged Grand Canyon Visitor Center Section



Hiking Grand Canyon

Spectacular vistas, challenges, and quiet corners



Don't Suffer, Hike Smart

- 1 Be Prepared:** Know the weather forecast. Spring weather changes quickly. Know your route. Carry a map, flashlight, and extra clothing including wind and rain protection. Over-the-shoe traction devices may be necessary on icy trails.
- 2 Stay comfortable:** Dressing in layers is the key to comfortable hiking. Do not forget your hat. It is important to stay dry and protected from the wind.
- 3 Go Slowly:** If you can carry on a conversation, you are hiking at the right pace. If you find yourself out of breath, your legs and digestive system are not getting enough oxygen which may lead to fatigue, heavy legs, and exhaustion.
- 4 Rest Often:** Sit down, prop your legs up, and take a 10-minute break at least once every hour.
- 5 Eat and Drink Frequently:** Balance your food and water intake. Salty snacks help replace electrolytes lost through perspiration. Snack every time you drink. Food and water supply the extra energy needed for hiking.

Trails

	Destination	Round trip distance	Approximate time round trip	Elevation change	Notes
Rim Trail (mostly flat, many sections suitable for wheelchairs)					
The Rim Trail offers easy walking and quiet views as it winds along the rim from Hermits Rest east to South Kaibab Trailhead. Begin from any viewpoint and use the free shuttle buses to return.	Follows the rim for 13 miles/21 km	Your choice	15 minutes to half-a-day	200 feet 60 m	Mostly paved, except dirt from Monument Creek Vista east to Powell Point Leashed dogs allowed

Bright Angel Trail (steep, but popular)

The most popular trail into the canyon begins west of Bright Angel Lodge. Seasonal water is available along the trail (subject to line breaks). Can be icy early in the spring. Check at visitor centers for trail conditions and water availability.	1 ½-Mile Resthouse	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	1,121 feet 345 m	Rest rooms Seasonal water
	3-Mile Resthouse	6 miles 9.6 km	4–6 hours	2,102 feet 644 m	Rest rooms Seasonal water
	Indian Garden	9.2 miles 14.8 km	6–9 hours	3,050 feet 933 m	Rest rooms Water year-round

South Kaibab Trail (steep with expansive views)

Trail begins south of Yaki Point; you must ride the free Kaibab/Rim Route shuttle bus to the trailhead. Best views for a relatively short hike. Water at trailhead, but not along the trail. Can be icy in early spring.	Ooh Aah Point	1.8 miles 2.9 km	1–2 hours	600 feet 180 m	No water First view east
	Cedar Ridge	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	1,140 feet 347 m	Rest rooms No water
	Skeleton Point	6 miles 9.7 km	4–6 hours	2,040 feet 622 m	No water Third hitching rail

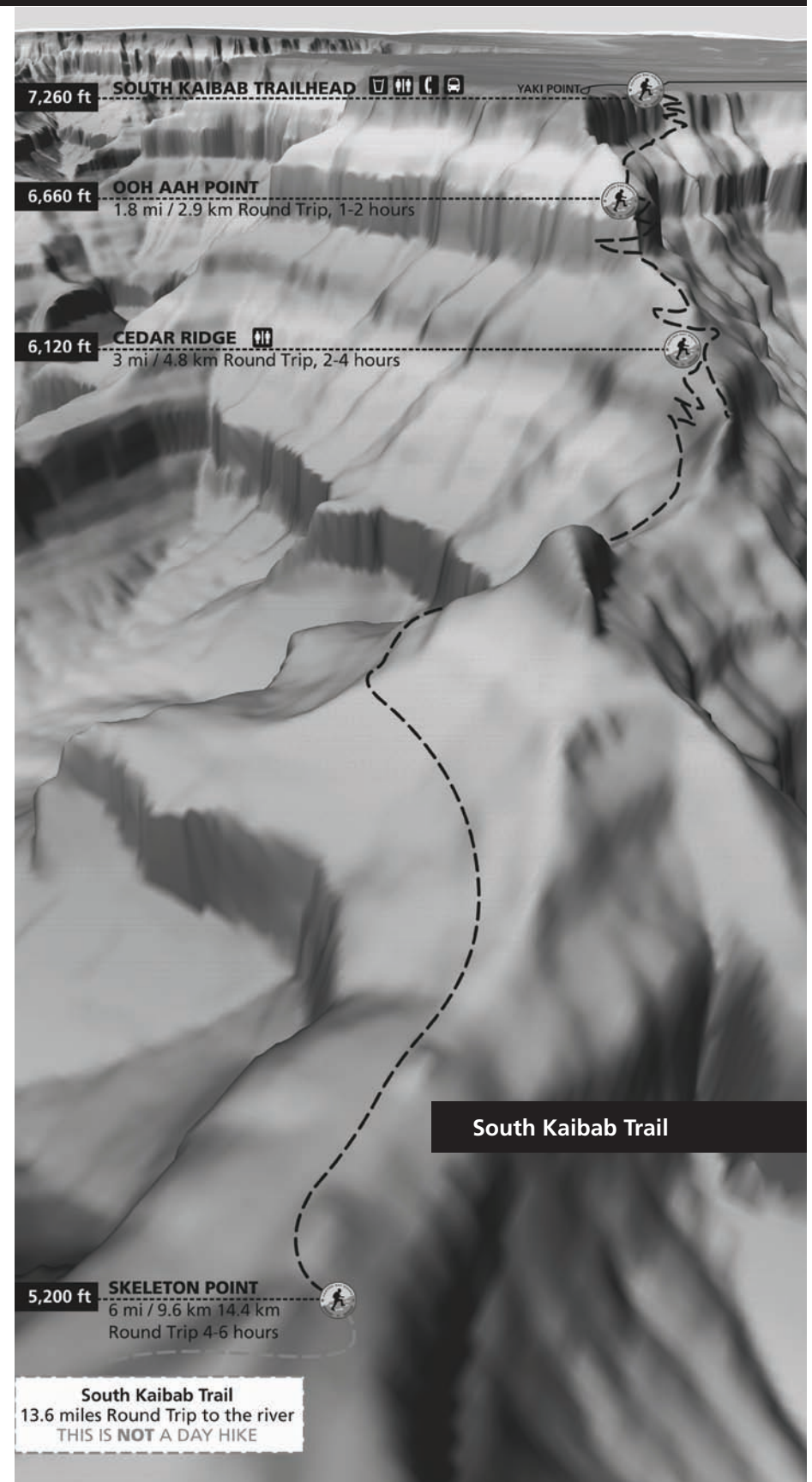
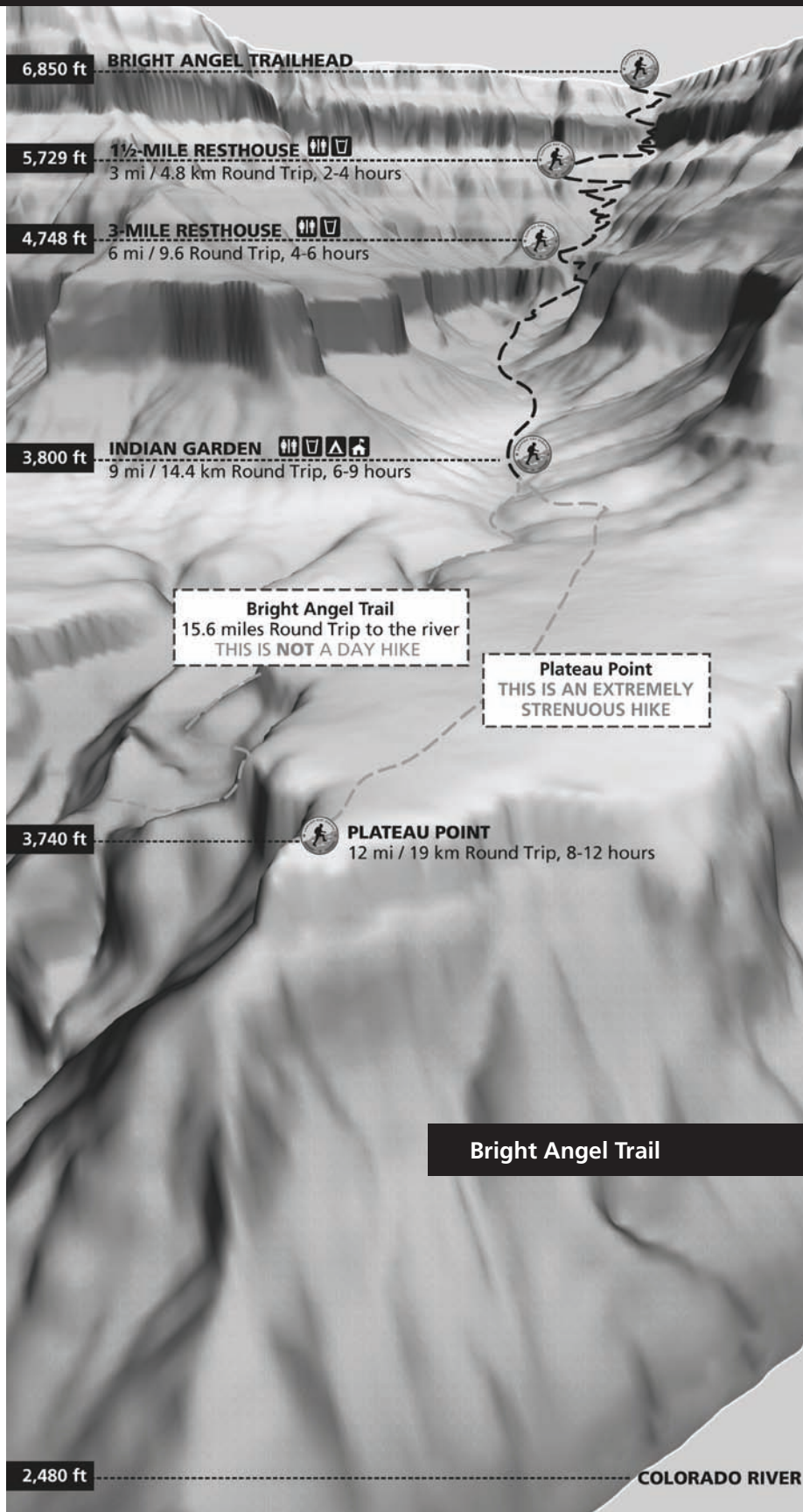


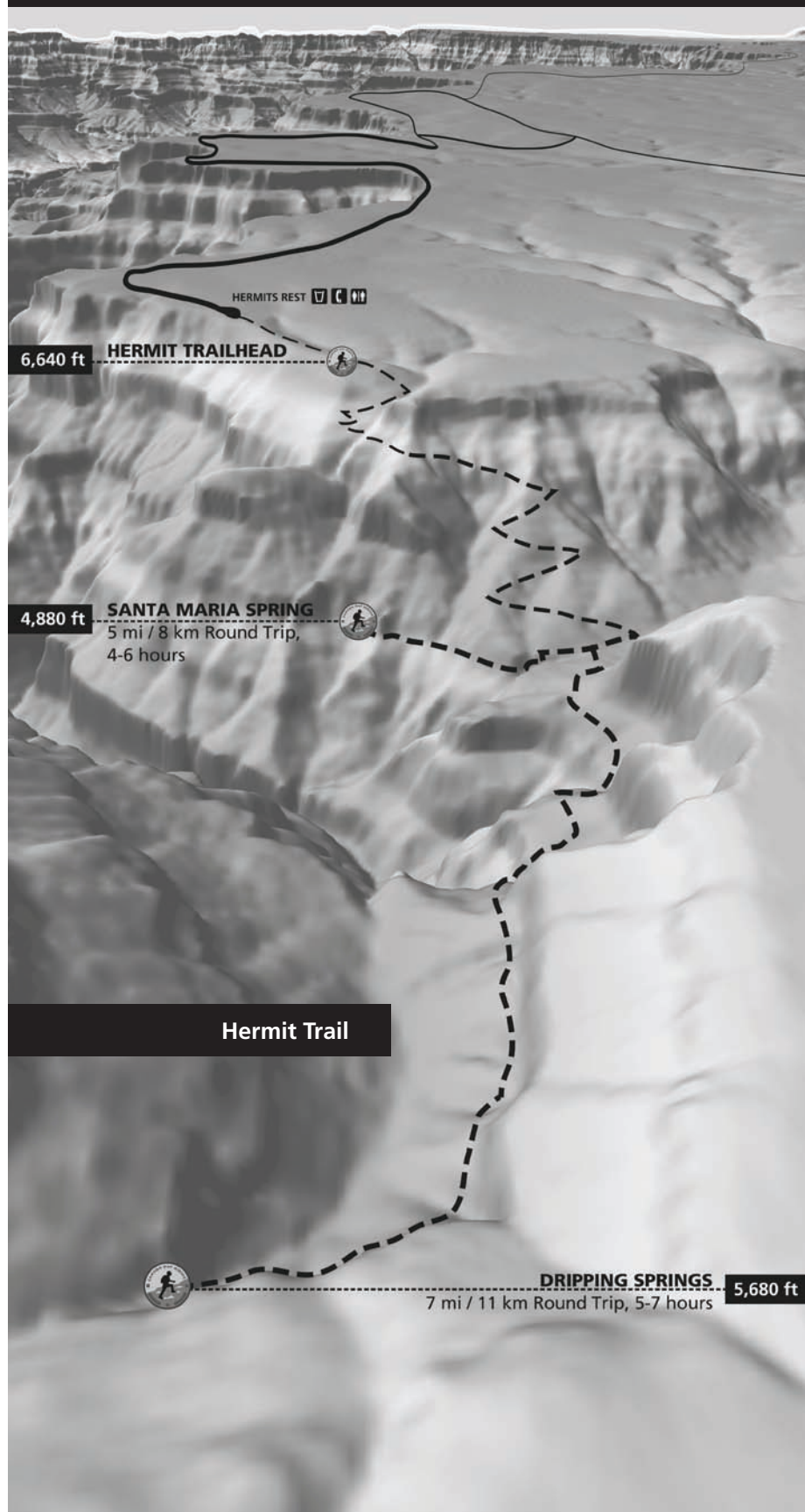
The *Hikers' Express* runs directly from the Bright Angel Lodge shuttle bus stop, the Backcountry Information Center, and Grand Canyon Visitor Center to the South Kaibab Trailhead daily:

March: 7:00, 8:00, and 9:00 a.m. **April:** 6:00, 7:00, and 8:00 a.m. **May:** 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00 a.m.

Hermit Trail (steep and rocky)

This rough, unmaintained trail starts 500 feet (150 m) west of Hermits Rest. Recommended for experienced desert hikers. Hiking boots recommended. Water from springs must be treated.	Waldron Basin	3 miles 4.8 km	2–4 hours	1,240 feet 380 m	No water, little shade
	Santa Maria Spring	5 miles 8 km	4–6 hours	1,760 feet 540 m	Treat water
	Dripping Springs	7 miles 11 km	5–7 hours	1,400 feet 430 m	Treat water Narrow trail





Backpacking Permits

Backcountry permits are distributed by the Backcountry Information Center and are required for all overnight camping in the backcountry. The fee is \$10 for the permit plus \$5 per person per night.

Most backcountry permits are reserved four months in advance, however the Backcountry Information Center has a limited number of last minute permits available for Indian Gardens and Bright Angel Campgrounds.

Last minute permits are issued in-person starting at 8:00 a.m. daily, are for hikes starting the next day, and can be for one or two nights. After the day's last minute permits are gone, a waitlist is started for the next day.

The Backcountry Information Center is open for walk-in visitors daily 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Please stop by. You can talk with a backcountry ranger, learn more about hiking at Grand Canyon and get help planning a safe and enjoyable hike.

Backcountry Information Center

(928) 638 - 7875

Phone: Monday - Friday; 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
www.nps.gov/grca/planyourvisit/backcountry.htm

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting responsible outdoor recreation through education, research and partnerships. While enjoying your visit, please consider the following principles to minimize your impact and help protect Grand Canyon for future generations.



1. Plan ahead and prepare.
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces.
3. Dispose of waste properly.
4. Leave what you find.
5. Minimize campfire impacts
 No campfires in Grand Canyon National Park backcountry.
6. Respect wildlife.
7. Be considerate of other visitors.

For more information: www.LNT.org

Health Hazards

Moderation is the key to having an enjoyable hike. Hike within your ability, maintain proper body temperature, balance your food and water intake, and rest often. Emergency situations include:

Heat exhaustion

Heat exhaustion is the result of dehydration due to intense sweating. Hikers can lose 1 - 2 quarts (liters) of water per hour. Rangers treat as many as twenty cases of heat exhaustion a day in summer.

Symptoms: pale face, nausea, cool and moist skin, headache, and cramps

Treatment: drink water, eat high-energy foods, rest in the shade, cool the patient

Heat stroke

Heat stroke is a life-threatening emergency where the body's heat-regulating mechanisms become overwhelmed by a combination of internal heat production and environmental demands.

Symptoms: flushed face, dry skin, weak and rapid pulse, high body temperature, poor judgment or inability to cope, unconsciousness. Victim is in danger!

Treatment: find shade, cool victim with water, send for help!

Hyponatremia

Hyponatremia is an illness that mimics the early symptoms of heat exhaustion. It is the result of low sodium in the blood caused by drinking too much water, not eating enough salty foods, and losing salt through sweating.

Symptoms: nausea, vomiting, altered mental states, and frequent urination

Treatment: have the victim rest and eat salty foods. If mental alertness decreases, seek immediate help!

Hypothermia

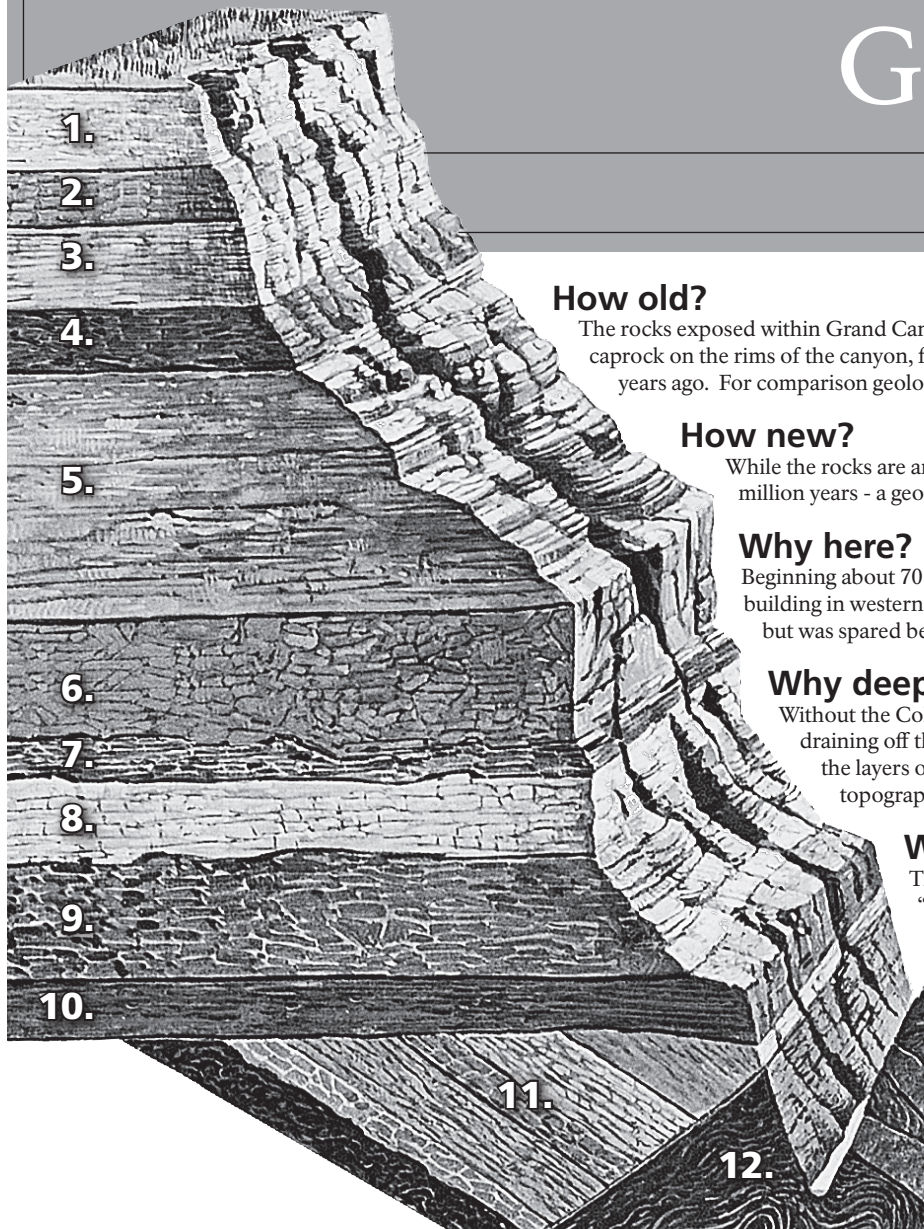
Hypothermia is a life-threatening emergency where the body cannot keep warm due to exhaustion and exposure to cold, wet, windy weather.

Symptoms: uncontrolled shivering, poor muscle control, and a careless attitude

Treatment: put on dry clothing, drink warm liquids, and protect from wind, rain, and cold.

Grand Canyon Rocks

Basic answers to your geologic questions



How old?

The rocks exposed within Grand Canyon range from the fairly young to the fairly old (geologically speaking). Kaibab limestone, the caprock on the rims of the canyon, formed 270 million years ago. The oldest rocks at the bottom of Grand Canyon date from 1,840 million years ago. For comparison geologists currently set the age of Earth at 4,560 million years.

How new?

While the rocks are ancient, the canyon is young. Geologists generally agree that canyon carving occurred over the last 5-6 million years - a geologic blink of the eye.

Why here?

Beginning about 70 million years ago, heat and pressure generated by two colliding tectonic plates induced mountain building in western North America. An area known as the Colorado Plateau was raised more than 10,000 feet (3,000 m), but was spared bending and shifting associated with the uplifting of rock layers.

Why deep?

Without the Colorado River, a perennial river in a desert environment, Grand Canyon would not exist. Water draining off the western slopes of the southern Rocky Mountains carried sand and gravel, cutting down through the layers of rock. Without the uplift of the Colorado Plateau, there would not have been the thousands of feet of topography to sculpt.

Why wide?

The width results from the rock layers collapsing down to the river and its tributaries combined with the "headward erosion" of these side streams. Softer, weaker layers erode faster, undermining the harder, stronger layers above them. Over its 277 river miles (446 km), the jagged Grand Canyon varies in width. Along the South Rim, it ranges between 8 and 16 miles (13-26 km) depending upon where you choose to measure.

Why Grand?

Often described as Earth's greatest geological showcase - the melding of depth, width, and length, sets Grand Canyon apart. Nowhere else features such a dazzling variety of colorful rock layers, impressive buttes, and shadowed side canyons.

Illustration:

1. Kaibab Formation	270 million years
2. Toroweap Formation	273 million years
3. Coconino Sandstone	275 million years
4. Hermit Formation	280 million years
5. Supai Group	315-285 million years
6. Redwall Limestone	340 million years
7. Temple Butte Formation	385 million years
8. Muav Limestone	505 million years
9. Bright Angel Shale	515 million years
10. Tapeats Sandstone	525 million years
11. Grand Canyon Supergroup	1,200 -740 million years
12. Vishnu basement rocks	1,840-1,680 million years

Want to know more?

Attending a FREE ranger program may move you from wonder to comprehension. Programs are described on pages 4-5.

Exhibits at Yavapai Geology Museum explain the geologic processes that formed the rocks and carved the canyon. The Trail of Time follows the Rim Trail for 1.2 miles (2 km) between Yavapai Geology Museum and Verkamp's Visitor Center. The path contains information about the canyon's geologic history, as well as samples from each layer of the canyon.



Visitor Services

Locations and hours around the park



Food and Beverage

El Tovar Dining Room

In El Tovar Hotel

Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Lunch: 11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner: 5:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Beginning April 1:

Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Dinner reservations required:

(928) 638-2631 ext 6432

Lounge: 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

The Arizona Room

Outside Bright Angel Lodge

Reservations are not accepted.

Open Friday and Saturday

Beginning March 4, open daily

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Lunch Service begins March 4

Dinner: 4:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Bright Angel Restaurant

In Bright Angel Lodge

Breakfast: 6:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Beginning April 1:

Breakfast: 6:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Lunch: 11:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Beginning April 1:

Lunch: 11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Dinner: 4:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Lounge: 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Bright Angel Coffee House

In Bright Angel Lodge

Open daily

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Beginning April 1:

5:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Bright Angel Fountain

Rim side of Bright Angel Lodge

Open weekends 11:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Beginning March 12:

Open daily (weather permitting)

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Maswik Cafeteria

In Maswik Lodge

Closed until mid-April

Will re-open daily:

6:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Maswik Pizza Pub

In Maswik Lodge

Closed until mid-April

Will re-open daily:

noon - 11:00 p.m.

Yavapai Cafeteria

In Yavapai Lodge

Open daily: 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Canyon Village Deli

In the General Store

March - April:

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

May:

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Desert View Snackbar

In Desert View Trading Post

Daily: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Beginning May 13:

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Hermits Rest Snack Bar

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Camping on the South Rim

Mather Campground

Operated by the National Park Service. No hook-ups are available, but there is a dump station. Maximum vehicle length: 30 feet. Campsites are \$18 per night. Some sites may be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Check at the campground entrance.

For advance reservations at other times of year (up to 6 months in advance) contact Reserve America at (877) 444-6777 or visit www.recreation.gov

Trailer Village

Pull-through sites with hookups are located next to Mather Campground. \$34.50 per site per night for two people; \$3.00 for each additional person over age 16. Campers may register at the entrance to Trailer Village. Reservations through Xanterra Parks & Resorts. For advance reservations: (888) 297-2757. www.grandcanyonlodges.com For same-day reservations: (928) 638-2631.

Desert View Campground

Located near the East Entrance, 25 miles east of Grand Canyon Village. Self-registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. \$12 per site per night. Opens mid-May.

Camping in the Backcountry

You must obtain a permit from the Backcountry Information Center to camp anywhere on the South Rim other than at Mather Campground, Trailer Village, or Desert View Campground. See page 12 for more info.

Camping Outside the Park

Camper Village

Commercial campground located one mile (1.6 km) south of park entrance in the town of Tusayan. Hook-ups, coin-operated showers, laundry, propane, dump station, and store are available year round. Call (928) 638-2887 or (800) 638-2887. www.grandcanyoncampervillage.com

Ten-X Campground

Operated by Kaibab National Forest. Located 2 miles (3.2 km) south of Tusayan. \$10.00 per vehicle per night. No hookups or showers. Group sites available by reservation. Opens May 1, weather permitting. Information: (928) 638-2443.



Lodging: In the Park

South Rim

For same-day reservations, call (928) 638-2631. For advance reservations, call (888) 297-2757 or write: Xanterra Parks & Resorts, 6312 South Fiddlers Green Circle, Suite 600N Greenwood Village, CO 80111. www.grandcanyonlodges.com

All prices are subject to change.

Bright Angel Lodge	\$70 - 178
El Tovar Hotel	\$178 - 426
Kachina Lodge	\$173 - 184
Thunderbird Lodge	\$173 - 184
Maswik Lodge	\$92 - 173
Yavapai Lodge	\$114 - 163

Bottom of the Canyon

Phantom Ranch

Located at the bottom of the canyon. Overnight dormitory and cabin space. Advance reservations are required. Call (888) 297-2757 for prices, inquire at the Transportation Desks in Bright Angel, Maswik, or Yavapai Lodges, or book online:

www.grandcanyonlodges.com

North Rim

The North Rim opens for the season May 15.

Grand Canyon Lodge

Make reservations by calling (877) 386-4383 or www.foreverresorts.com

Lodging: Tusayan, AZ

Best Western Grand Canyon Squire Inn

(800) 937-8376 or (928) 638-2681

Canyon Plaza Resort

(800) 955-2521 or (928) 638-2673

Grand Hotel

(888) 634-7263 or (928) 638-3333

Holiday Inn Express

(888) 473-2269 or (928) 638-3000

Red Feather Lodge

(866) 561-2425 or (928) 638-2414



Wifi:

Park Headquarters building has public computer access and wifi.



Cell Phone Tour:

Wherever you see a cell phone tour sign, dial (928) 225-2907 and enter the indicated stop number. You will hear a two-minute interpretive ranger talk. There is no additional charge; standard rates apply. Locations throughout the park.

Books and gifts

Hermits Rest

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Village Area

Maswik Lodge

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Kolb Studio

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Beginning April 1

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Lookout Studio

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Beginning May 13

8:00 a.m. - sunset

Bright Angel Lodge

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

El Tovar Hotel

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Hopi House

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Beginning May 13

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Verkamp's Visitor Center

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Beginning April 1

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Yavapai Lodge Curio

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Beginning May 13

7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Yavapai Geology Museum

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Books & More near Grand Canyon Visitor Center

8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Desert View Area

Tusayan Museum

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Desert View Visitor Center

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Desert View Trading Post

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Beginning May 13

8:00 a.m. - sunset

Desert View Watchtower

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Beginning May 13

8:00 a.m. - sunset

Services



Laundry and Showers

Located at Camper Services

Last laundry load an hour and 15 minutes prior to close.

Through March 24:

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

March 25 - April 21:

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

After April 22: 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.



Chase Bank and ATM

Market Plaza. 24-hour ATM.

Monday-Thursday:

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(928) 638-2437

ATM also in Maswik Lodge lobby.



Kennels

Daily: 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

(928) 638-0534.

For retrieval after 5:00 p.m., contact

Fire and Safety: (928) 638-2631

Lost and Found

For items lost or found in hotels or restaurants call: (928) 638-2631. For all other lost items call: (928) 638-7798.



Post Office

At Market Plaza. (928) 638-2512

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Garage Services

Located east of the train depot at the east end of Xanterra General Offices.

Open daily: 8:00 a.m. - noon, and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Provides basic emergency repairs and tow service to Williams or Flagstaff. (928) 638-2631

Child Day Care

Day care for infants through 12 years old is offered by Kaibab Learning Center on a space available basis. Immunization records must be provided.

Open: Monday - Friday: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (928) 638-6333

Religious Services

Religious services are offered in the park and the nearby community. Current schedules are posted at Mather Campground (near the check-in station), Shrine of the Ages, the information kiosk near the post office, Grand Canyon Visitor Center, and Verkamp's Visitor Center.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Gary Bishop, Branch President

(928) 638-3227

El Cristo Rey Roman Catholic

Rev. Michael Accinni-Reinhardt

(928) 638-2390

Grand Canyon Assembly of God

Brian and Debbie Fulthorp, Pastors.

(928) 707-2904

Grand Canyon Baptist Church

Rick Wiles, Pastor

(928) 638-0757

Grand Canyon Community Church

Patrick Dotson, Pastor

(928) 638-2340

Jewish Services and Programs

Rabbi Nina Perlmutter

(928) 777-8172

Paid Tours and Activities

Transportation Desks

Information about Phantom Ranch facilities, mule trips, horseback riding, air tours, one-day float trips, and motorcoach tours (including wheelchair-accessible tours) is available in the lobbies of Maswik, Bright Angel and Yavapai Lodges. Call (928) 638-2631, ext. 6015

www.grandcanyonlodges.com

Air Tours

Fixed-wing and helicopter tours originate daily from Grand Canyon Airport located outside the park in Tusayan.

Mule Trips

Two-day trips into the canyon to Phantom Ranch depart each morning. A three-hour forest ride to The Abyss overlook departs once daily.

Bus Tours

Tours within the park to Desert View, Hermits Rest, sunrise, and sunset tours, are available daily.

Smooth-Water Raft Trips

Day trips on the Colorado River from Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry are provided by Colorado River Discovery. (888) 522-6644, www.raftthecanyon.com

Community Library

Monday - Saturday: 10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Public Access computers and Wifi available

Transportation

Grand Canyon Railway

Offers service between Williams and Grand Canyon. Call (800) THE-TRAIN.

www.thetrain.com

Taxi Service

Service is available to the Grand Canyon Airport, trailheads, and other destinations. Daily 24-hour service.

(928) 638-2631, ext. 6563.

Rim to Rim Shuttle

Daily round-trip transportation between the North Rim and South Rim is provided by Transcanyon Shuttle. One trip each way daily. Reservations required: (928) 638-2820. Service resumes May 15, 2011.

Arizona Highway Information

511 or (888) 411-ROAD. www.az511.gov



Groceries

Village General Store

March - April: 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

May: 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Desert View Marketplace

March - April: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

May: 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Medical

24-Hour emergency care dial 911

From hotel rooms dial 9-911

North Country Grand Canyon Clinic

March - April 15:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Beginning April 16:

Daily: 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

(928) 638-2551

Environmental Education

Class Trips, Summer Camps, and Teacher Workshops

Teachers: (928) 638-7931

www.nps.gov/grca/teachers/

Summer camps:

www.nps.gov/grca/forkids/camp.htm

Grand Canyon Youth: www.gcyouth.org

Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI)

Hiking and Backpacking

Offers a wide variety of educational classes throughout the park. For more information call (866) 471-4435 or visit

www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute

Available in Tusayan

Apache Stables Horse Rides

Located outside the park, at the north end of Tusayan. For information and reservations call (928) 638-2891.

Grand Canyon Chamber of Commerce

Located in Tusayan, provides information about Tusayan and the local businesses. For information call (888) 472-2696.

www.grandcanyonchamber.com/index.php

Grand Canyon Wild West Experience

(928) 638-0333

www.grandcanyonwildwestexperience.com

IMAX Theater

Movie shown every hour on the half hour: 8:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(928) 638-4629

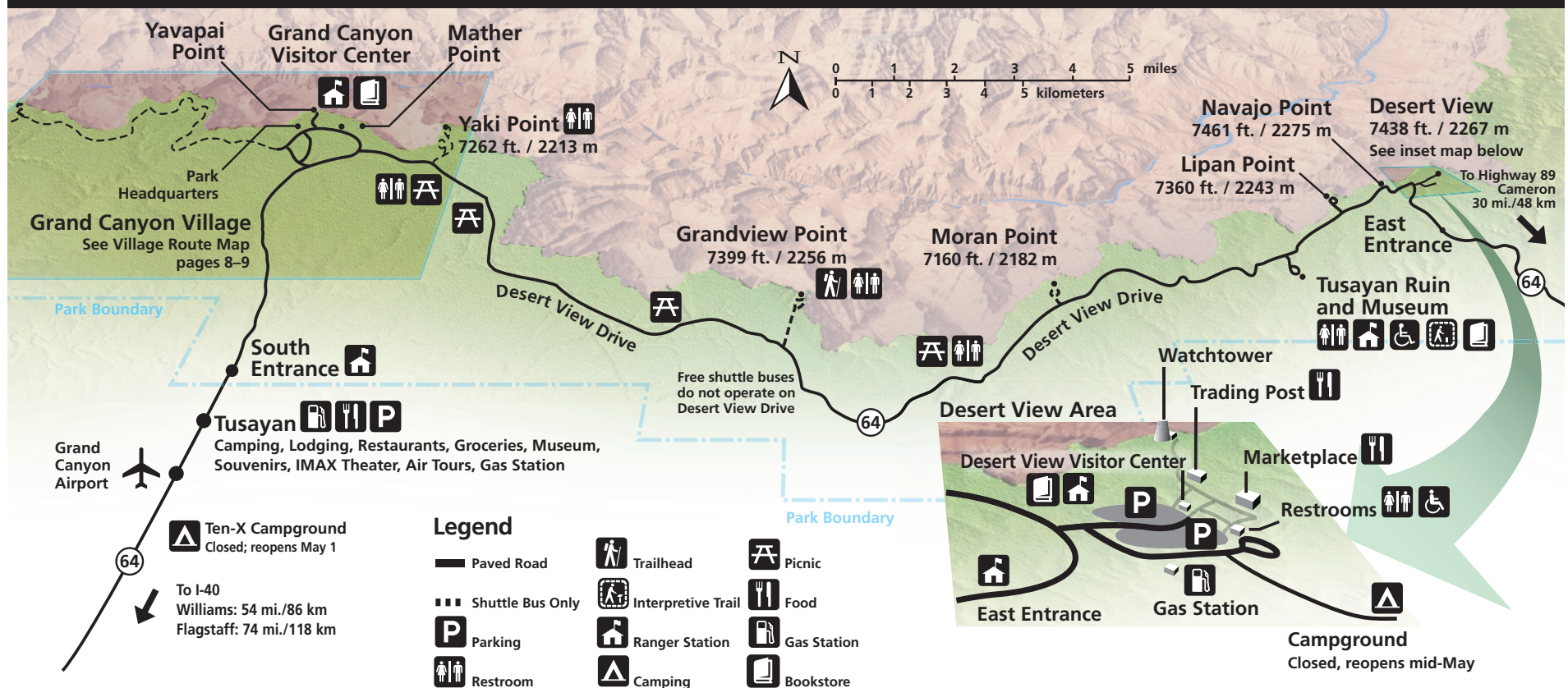
Kaibab National Forest

Tusayan Ranger District

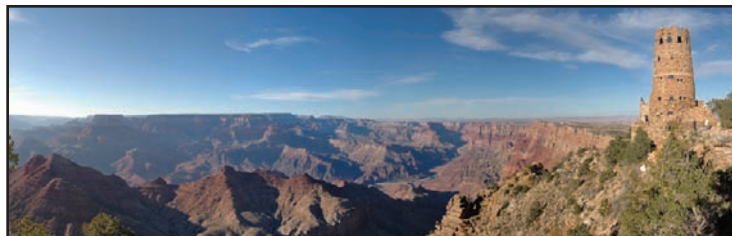
(928) 638-2443

News and Weather

KNAU: Radio FM 90.3



Desert View Drive Highlights



Viewpoints along the way are worth stopping and spending some time exploring and experiencing these vast and intimate spaces.

The Watchtower Architect Mary Colter gained inspiration through her travels in the Southwest for this impressive building reminiscent of ancient structures. Climb the 85 steps to see a 360 degree view.

Navajo and Lipan Points Look across the canyon and towards the river to see tilted layers of the Grand Canyon Supergroup. These rocks are only visible from a few areas along the South Rim and tell an interesting geologic story.

Moran Point Located 8 miles across from Cape Royal on the North Rim. A chance to glimpse the mighty Colorado River as it continues to aid in carving the Grand Canyon.

Grandview Point See how fire has restored a more natural landscape through managed fires along Desert View Drive.

Desert View Services

Gas Station	Gas available 24 hours with credit card Staffed beginning April 1 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Desert View Marketplace	March – April: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. May: 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Bookstore/Park Information	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Trading Post Gift Shop	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Beginning May 14: 8:00 a.m. – sunset
Watchtower Gift Shop	8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Beginning May 13: 8:00 a.m. – sunset
Watchtower stairs	Close 30 minutes before gift shop
Desert View Campground	Opens mid-May weather permitting First-come, first-served

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

Post Office Box 129, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023
(928) 638-7888
GPS Address: 1 Village Loop Road, Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

For the latest information updates, visit Grand Canyon National Park's web site at: www.nps.gov/grca

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Experience Your America



North Rim



The average distance across Grand Canyon "as the raven flies" is ten miles (16 km). Traveling from the South Rim to the North Rim by automobile, however, requires a five-hour drive of 215 miles (346 km).

During the winter months, Highway 67 to the North Rim is closed at Jacob Lake, Arizona. Lodging and camping at the North Rim are available from mid-May to mid-October. Reservations are strongly recommended. Additional facilities are available in the surrounding Kaibab National Forest, the Kaibab Lodge area, and Jacob Lake.

A separate edition of *The Guide* is published for the North Rim. Ask at any NPS visitor center for a copy.